

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF RESTRICTION
REQUIREMENT**

Claims 51, 52, 54, 55, 57-60, 62-64, 71, 71 are allowable. The restriction requirement between Species 1 through Species 3, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 08/04/08, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims to the elected invention pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a). **The restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.** Claims 53, 56, 61, and 65-70, directed to Species 2 and Species 3 are no longer withdrawn from consideration because the claim(s) requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

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by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Pous on 6/01/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims dated 3/02/10:

Claim 51: An assembly comprising:

a panel of fragile material having two faces and at least one edge surface connecting said faces, the at least one edge surface comprising a first contact region and a second contact region, wherein a portion of said panel is interposed between said first and second contact regions; and

at least one point fastener along each face of the panel occupying a small area of the panel, each said at least one point fastener comprising a first anchoring part configured to engage said first contact region and a second anchoring part configured to engage said second contact region; and

at least one rigid adjusting device configured to apply a force in a direction parallel to said faces and along a line connecting the first and second anchoring parts to draw the first and second anchoring parts toward one another, whereby the first and second anchoring parts bear against the interposed portion of the panel at the first and second contact regions, respectively,

whereby the panel can be fixed to a bearing structure by way of the point fastener.

Claims 51-72 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE T. CAJILIG whose telephone number is (571) 272-8143. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-6670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. T. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3633

/Robert J Canfield/
for D. Dunn, SPE of Art Unit 3633